

## 5 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A belt module for use with a headed pivot rod, the belt module, comprising:

a first plurality of link ends disposed in a  
10 direction of belt travel, the first link ends having  
first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the  
direction of belt travel;

a second plurality of link ends extending in a  
direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends,  
15 the second link ends being offset from the first link  
ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are  
capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of  
one belt module fit into spaces defined between the  
second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt  
20 module, the second link ends having second pivot rod  
openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt  
travel;

an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod  
opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt  
25 travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a  
diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second  
pivot rod openings such that the pivot rod can only be

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5 removed in one direction, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the pivot rod opening; and,

10 a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening and obstructing the head of the pivot rod in the second position such that the pivot

15 rod is prevented from exiting the edge portion pivot rod opening.

2. The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the slot in the edge portion is disposed substantially parallel to the

20 direction of belt travel.

3. The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking member has a detent member.

25 4. The belt module of Claim 3, further comprising a detent opening extending to the slot.

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5     5.     The belt module of Claim 4, wherein the detent member is disposed in the detent opening when the blocking member is in the first position.

6.     The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking  
10    member has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being wider than the first portion such that the blocking member has an L-shape.

7.     The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking  
15    member has a slot defined therein.

8.     The belt module of Claim 3, wherein the detent member engages with a wall adjacent to the pivot rod opening when the blocking member is in the second  
20    position.

9.     A modular belt, comprising:  
        a first belt module comprising a first plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the  
25    first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite

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5 to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second

10 plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the

15 edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a

20 slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the edge portion pivot rod opening, and a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening

25 in the second position;

a second belt module disposed adjacent to the first belt module, the second belt module comprising a first

5 plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, 10 the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt 15 module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a 20 diameter larger than a diameter of the first pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the 25 edge portion pivot rod opening, and a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking

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5 member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening  
in the second position;

at least one pivot rod having an enlarged head at a  
first end, the at least one pivot rod disposed through  
the edge portion pivot rod opening in the first belt  
10 module and disposed through the intercalated first and  
second pivot rod openings of the first belt module and  
the second belt module, the enlarged head of the pivot  
rod being obstructed by the blocking member in its  
second position such that the pivot rod is prevented  
15 from exiting the edge portion pivot rod opening; and,  
wherein the pivot rod can only be removed in one  
direction.

10. The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the slot in the  
20 edge portion is disposed substantially parallel to the  
direction of belt travel.

11. The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking  
member has a detent member.

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12. The belt module of Claim 11, further comprising a  
detent opening extending to the slot.

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13. The belt module of Claim 12, wherein the detent member is disposed in the detent opening when the blocking member is in the first position.

10 14. The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking member has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being wider than the first portion such that the blocking member has an L-shape.

15 15. The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking member has a slot defined therein.

16. The belt module of Claim 11, wherein the detent member engages with a wall adjacent to the pivot rod  
20 opening when the blocking member is in the second position.

17. A method of configuring a modular belt, comprising:  
providing a plurality of belt modules having a first  
25 plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt

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5 travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of  
10 one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod  
15 opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry  
20 with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the edge portion pivot rod opening, a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the  
25 blocking member extending into the pivot rod opening in the second position;



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5           placing pivot rods through the pivot rod openings  
and the first and second pivot rod openings in adjacent  
belt modules such that the first and second link ends of  
the adjacent belt modules are intercalated and the  
adjacent belt modules are interlinked into adjacent  
10   hinged rows to form an endless belt capable of  
articulating about a drive sprocket; and,

          wherein the pivot rods can only be removed from the  
intercalated modules in one direction.